

Protocol 1021 Fourth Rotation

Protocol Number: 1021

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Protocol

The option of a fourth rotation is reserved for the rare occasion that a predoctoral researcher cannot find an adequate fit during her/his first three rotations for reasons beyond her/his control. If such a situation does arise, the predoctoral researcher will need to initiate the request for a fourth rotation as outlined in this protocol.

Each predoctoral researcher participates in three lab rotations during the spring term of their first year. These three rotations assist the predoctoral researchers in determining a thesis lab. On occasion, a predoctoral researcher requests a fourth rotation to aid in selecting a thesis lab.

A guideline of circumstances that may or may not achieve the granting of a fourth rotation are outlined below. A request will not be considered if the predoctoral researcher has failed any of the fall module courses. If a request is considered, a determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The following are circumstances, largely out of the predoctoral researcher's control, in which a fourth rotation may be granted:

1. During or after a rotation, it is determined that a principal investigator will be leaving SIMR. These reasons include, but are not limited to, the principal investigator leaving for another position or retiring.
2. During or after a rotation, it is determined that a principal investigator's lab is not available to the predoctoral researcher for thesis research due to budget issues.
3. For reasons outside of the control of the predoctoral researcher, he or she was unable to place in a thesis lab.

The following reasons, which are in the control of the predoctoral researcher, are **NOT** grounds for a fourth rotation:

1. Poor academic and/or scientific performance, as documented by the principal investigator, in one or more rotations.
2. Demonstration of a poor attitude, as documented by the principal investigator, during one or more rotations.
3. A failing grade, as documented by the principal investigator, in one or more rotations. Two failing grades will result in automatic dismissal.

Requests for a fourth rotation should be made to the Dean in writing as soon as the need becomes apparent, but no later than the seventh week of the third rotation. Significant and unexplained delays in making a request may be grounds to deny a request for a fourth rotation. Both the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and the Dean are available in person or via email at any time. Predoctoral researchers are strongly encouraged to consult either one or both with questions and concerns as they arise during a rotation even prior to any formal request.

Once a request is made in writing, the Dean will make a decision regarding the fourth rotation within five business days and will notify the predoctoral researcher by email of the decision. All decisions made by the Dean are final.

If a predoctoral researcher fails to match in a thesis lab and is not granted a fourth rotation, the predoctoral researcher will be dismissed from GSSIMR.

If a predoctoral researcher fails to match in a thesis lab and is granted a fourth rotation and again fails to match in a thesis lab, the predoctoral researcher will be dismissed from GSSIMR. There is no option for a fifth rotation.